

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-25 were rejected. Claim 1 was objected to without reference to any specific statute section. The Examiner stated the claim was confusing for claiming that "the fluid barrier is disengaged during use of the logging tool above the fluid barrier" and that this would mean "the barrier is disengaged above itself." However, Applicant disagrees with this assertion and requests the objection be withdrawn or further clarified. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits claim 1 clearly recites a downhole unit operable to house a logging tool, to selectively secure a fluid barrier within a wellbore casing and to disengage the fluid barrier when the logging tool is used at a downhole location above the fluid barrier that is secured within the wellbore casing.

Claims 1-25 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over the Moody et al. reference, US Patent No: 4,505,341. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Moody et al. reference describes a tool for use in a bore hole for debris collection. The patent describes existence of a need for a tool and method to effectively surge and clean debris from a well bore and from perforations through the well bore casing as well as from the formation beyond the perforations. The reference further recites existence of a need for a tool and method to clean a well bore, a hole through the casing and a cavity in the formation beyond the casing to permit effective squeezing of the hole. (Column 4, lines 52-63). The Moody et al. reference then goes on to describe a tool 10 that functions as an improved clean-out tool which also can be operated as a drilling tool to drill a bore hole without need for circulation of drilling fluid from the surface. (Column 6, lines 57-63).

The tool 10 is described as useful with a wash pipe 200 for removing objects 201 that are surrounded with or submerged in debris 210. The reference provides examples of objects that can be submerged in debris 210 and removed by tool 10. Those submerged object examples are listed as "logging tools, sinker bars, drill collars and the like" which can be removed by tool 10. (Column 12, lines 51-58, see also column 13, lines 38-45). However, the reference does not

describe a system comprising a logging system with a logging tool, as stated in the Office Action.

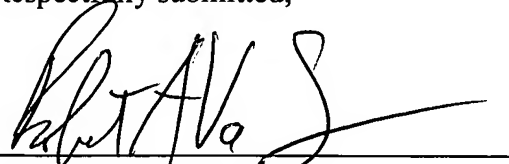
The cited reference also describes a modification of tool 10 in the form of a tool 300 that can be used with a pack-off device 302 and a bridge plug set 304, if needed. The reference, however, does not describe the use of tool 300 for deploying bridge plug set 304. Rather, the reference states that if a bridge plug set 304 is employed, a retrieving head 338 is mounted on the lower end of a trap valve subassembly 146 of tool 300 for use in retrieving the bridge plug set 304 from the bore hole. (Column 15, line 22, through column 16, line 26).

The Moody et al. reference completely fails to disclose or suggest numerous elements of the pending claims. For example, the reference does not disclose or suggest a system comprising "a logging system having a logging tool" or a downhole unit operable to "house the logging tool, to selectively secure a fluid barrier within a wellbore casing and to disengage the fluid barrier during use of the logging tool at a downhole location above the fluid barrier" as recited in independent, claim 1. Similarly, the cited reference does not disclose or suggest a downhole tool that comprises "a well logging tool" and a second portion operable "to selectively secure the fluid barrier to the wellbore casing, the second portion further being operable to disengage from the fluid barrier while the fluid barrier is secured to the wellbore casing, enabling operation of the logging tool uphole from the fluid barrier" as recited in independent, claim 14. Claims 2-13 and 15-25 ultimately depend from independent claims 1 and 14, respectively. The dependent claims contain additional elements that are not disclosed or suggested in the Moody et al. reference.

Accordingly, the Examiner has not established a prima facie case of obviousness, and the rejection of claims 1-25 should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing remarks, the pending claims are believed patentable over the cited reference. However, if the Examiner believes certain amendments are necessary to clarify the present claims or if the Examiner wishes to resolve other issues by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert A. Van Someren', written over a horizontal line.

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